are able to meet around 30% of the RBI demand for coins. Hence there are shortage of both notes and coins in the country.

(b) With a view to improving supply of currency notes/coins, Government has taken various steps like (i) modernisation of existing two note printing presses at Nasik and Dewas; (ii) setting up of two more note printing presses by the Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Limited (BRBNML) *(i.e.,* one at Mysore in Karnataka and the other at Salboni in West Bengal); (iii) modernisation of India Government Mints at Calcutta, Hyderabad and Mumbai; (iv) complete coinisation of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 and diversion of the capacity so released for printing of higher denomination notes; (v) import of printed notes to the extent of 3600 million pieces (of a total face value of Rs. 1,00,000 crores) and 2000 million pieces of coins (of a total value of Rs. 260 crores) as a one time measures; and (vi) Government has also decided to introduced Rs. 1,000/- note which will greatly relieve the pressure on lower denomination notes.

(c) The two BRBNML printing Units at Salboni and Mysore are expected to start production to their full capacity by end of this year.

**MOUs Signed with Canada and Malaysia for Development of Highways**

*498. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient feature of MOUs signed with Governments of Malaysia and Canada to facilitate technical co-operation in development of highways;

(b) whether any agreement has been singed between these countries in terms of MOUs for development of road construction, maintenance and management;

(c) which are the highways proposed to be developed and whether international funding is being sought for these projects, and

(d) whether the sanctions will effect the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) The Salient feature of the MOU singed with Malaysia are as under

(i) The Government of India and the Government of Malaysia are desirous of cooperating in the development and implementation of the Super National Highway (SNH) programme.

(ii) The Government of Malaysia is desirous of sharing its knowledge and experience in the privatisation of Infrastructural projects, in particular for the purpose of the development and implementation of the Super National Highway (SNH) programme.

(iii) The areas of cooperation may include the formulation of strategies, plan and chart of definite framework and direction coordination and organisation of fact finding the gathering of requisite information, preparation and study of the most effective highway alignment, methods of land acquisition for the SNH programme.

(iv) The Government of India and the Government of Malaysia envisage future and further cooperation and assistance to be provided in other infrastructural privatisation programmes in India and believe that the establishment of such cooperation will be constructive and productive.

The salient features of the MOU signed with the Ministry

Transportation, Ontario (MTO), Canada are as under:

(i) The Ministry of Surface Transport (MOST) and MTO are desires of renewing and extending the existing MOU and expanding further the areas of cooperation.

(ii) MTO is desirous of sharing its knowledge and expertise in planning, construction, implemention and operation of privately financed highways, in particular with reference to the expressway development programme in India.

(iii) The areas of cooperation between MOST and MTO shall include;

(a) Packaging of privatisation projects including necessity, if any, of public—private joint—venture and financial structuring;

(b) Evolving bid documents for privately financed projects;

(c) Management of privately financed projects including supervision and implementation;

(d) Development of technical and operation standards;

(e) Assessment of hardware and software requirements for operation and development of a highway management system;

(f) Exploring possibility of bilateral aid for funding feasibility studies for expressway projects;

(g) Providing training facilities for personnel in relevant areas.

(iv) MOST and MTO will strive to accomplish the objectives of this MOU through:

(a) Interaction staff including training.

(b) Utilisation of electronic communication.

(c) Formalising any Group in the respective organisations as nodal points for communication;

(d) Other procedures as mutually acceptable to both the organisations.

(v) MOST and MTO, on behalf of the Government of India and Government of Ontario, Canada respectively envisage future and further cooperation in highway development programme and believe that the establishment of such cooperation will be constructive and productive to both the organisations.

(b) No agreement has been signed.

(c) The following four projects have been identified for construction under private participation with Government of Malaysia for which international funding will be required.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | NH 1 Agra to Kanpur | (4 laning/ Expressway on new alignment) |
| 2 | NH 5 Tada to Ichapuram | (4 laning) |
| 3. | NH 8 Vadodara to Manor | (4 laning/ Expressway on new alignment) |
| 4. | NH 9 Hyderabad to Vijayawada | (4 laning) |

(d) No, Sir.

**Posting of S.D.Os in Madhya Pradesh for Assembly Election**

*499. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFARIS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in elections for Vidhan Sabha in Madhya Pradesh sub- divisional officers were posted in place of collectors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether S.D.Os were given proper guidelines for performing election process; and